

David J. ATTWATER, *et al.*
Serial No. 10/517,648
January 9, 2009

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The allowance of claims 18, 21-35, 37-40, 50 and 54 is appreciatively noted – as is the indication of allowable subject matter at dependent claims 4-10 and 14-16.

In response to the rejection of claims 52-53 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, claims 52 and 53 and have been amended above so as to correct a typographical error/omission in the earlier amendment. In particular, it was intended to write these claims in independent format in the earlier amendment, but for some reason, the content of parent claim 51 was inadvertently omitted. This oversight has been corrected above, thus obviating the outstanding grounds for rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph.

The continued rejection of claims 1-3, 11-13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Gamm ‘887 is again respectfully traversed.

Applicants’ response of May 22, 2008, already noted that Gamm fails to teach, at least, the claim recitation of “at least some of said comparisons involve comparing only a leading portion of the coded response with a part of the buffer contents already uttered by the speech generation means.” See, for example, the paragraph bridging pages 42-43 of the earlier response.

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As already noted in earlier remarks, Gamm's description of his system is inoperable. In any event, the portion relied upon by the Examiner (abstract; 2:5-12; and 1:43-59) does not teach or suggest having any comparisons involving comparing only a leading portion of the coded response with a part of the buffer contents already uttered by the speech generation means. Indeed, the Examiner's own paraphrasing of the asserted teaching at this portion of Gamm does not even allege that there is any such comparison involving only a leading portion of the coded response, etc. For the Examiner's convenience, the entire text relied upon by the Examiner is copied below. As will be noted, there is no teaching therein of any comparisons involving comparison of only a leading portion of the coded response with a part of the buffer contents already uttered by the speech generator.

"The invention relates to a speech recognition system for numeric characters, comprising a control device (33) for recognizing at least one numeric character sequence and for producing the recognized numeric characters of at least one numeric character sequence. For correcting erroneously recognized numeric characters there is proposed that the control device (33) is used for comparing a spoken second numeric character sequence with the first numeric character sequence in the case of at least one erroneously recognized numeric character of a first numeric character sequence. The control device (33) is then used for determining correlating numeric characters of a part of the first numeric character sequence, which sequence has the most matches with the numeric characters of the second numeric character sequence

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when the number of numeric characters of the second numeric character sequence is smaller than the number of numeric characters of the first numeric character sequence. The control device (33) then substitutes the non-matching numeric characters of the second numeric character sequence for the numeric characters of the determined part of the first numeric character sequence. If, however, the second spoken numeric character sequence is not shorter than the first, it is used to replace the entire first spoken numeric character sequence.” [Abstract.]

“The object is achieved by a system of the type defined in the opening paragraph in that, when there is at least one erroneously recognized numeric character of a first numeric character sequence, the control device is provided for comparing a spoken second numeric character sequence with the first numeric character sequence, in that the control device is provided for determining correlating numeric characters of a part of the first numeric character sequence which sequence has the most matches with the numeric characters of the second numeric character sequence when the number of numeric characters of the second numeric character sequence is smaller than the number of numeric characters of the first numeric character sequence, and in that the control device is provided for substituting the non-matching numeric characters of the second numeric character sequence for the numeric characters of the determined part of the first numeric character sequence.” [1:43-59.]

“...After an entered chain of numeric characters has been produced for the purpose of verification, the user is enabled to accept or refuse the recognized numeric character sequence

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Serial No. 10/517,648
January 9, 2009

and subsequently enter certain numeric characters once again. The numeric characters are produced by the control device either via speech synthesis or by producing previously entered and stored single numeric characters. The control device is to understand the numeric characters 0 to 9 and certain control entries such as, for example, "yes", "no" etc." [2:4-13.]

The Examiner's "response to arguments" section at page 6 of the last office action does not mention or otherwise address this earlier noted deficiency of Gamm.

Given such a fundamental deficiency of Gamm with respect to the above-noted limitation of parent claim 1, it is not believed necessary to discuss further deficiencies of Gamm with respect to other aspects of the rejected claims. suffice it to note that, as a matter of law, it is impossible for any reference to anticipate any claim unless it teaches each and every feature of that claim.

The rejection of claims 44-48 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Ciurpita '439 is also respectfully traversed.

The Examiner cites passages of Ciurpita allegedly teaching that number sequences are automatically portioned in a "predetermined" pattern based on the user pause or speaking pattern so that the verification is output in groups. But, in fact, the pattern of pauses is not "predetermined" at all. The predetermined patterns applicants recognize are typically predetermined number patterns. In fact, this is the only option described –

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and claim 44 now incorporates this limitation from claims 45-46 (now cancelled).

Despite the Examiner's rejection of claim 45, Ciurpita does not disclose recognition of predetermined numeric patterns.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable form, and a formal notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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